

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-08 TRSE-00 AID-05 /081 W
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R 110030Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0830
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 3034

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR SP CO BR PE GW MX
SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH SPAIN, US,
AND OTHERS

REF: MEXICO 2878

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. MEXICAN DAILIES OF MARCH 10 REPORTED COMMENTS BY FONSEC SANTIAGO ROEL ON A GAMUT OF SUBJECTS, INCLUDING WHAT PURPORT TO BE HIS MOST EXTENSIVE REMARKS TO DATE ON RELATIONS WITH SPAIN. ROEL IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT MEXICO IS SEARCHING FOR THE RIGHT FORMULA("IN FORM AND SUBSTANCE") TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH SPAIN WITHOUT "LEAVING ASIDE" TRADITIONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SPANISH REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT IN EXILE. HE DENIED THAT THE SITUATION RESEMBLED THE PROBLEM OF THE TWO CHINAS AND STATED THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT HAS EXERTED NO PRESSURE ON MEXICO TO BREAK WITH THE REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH THE
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GOVERNMENT OF JUAN CARLOS. IN A RELATED NEWS REPORT, DR. FRANCISCO GIRAL, OF THE SPANISH REPUBLICAN OFFICES IN MEXICO CITY, STATED THAT "WHATEVER THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT SAYS AND DOES IS WELL SAID AND WELL-DONE." WHEN ASKED ABOUT ROEL'S REMARKS.

2. ON RELATIONS WITH THE US, ROEL STATED THAT PRESIDENT

LOPEZ PORTILLO'S VISIT TO THE US ACCOMPLISHED TWO GOALS- AN INCREASE IN TOURISM AND A STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONS WITH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. ROEL ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE CURRENT US POSITION TOWARD CHILE WAS "VERY NOTEWORTHY."

3. ROEL ANNOUNCED THAT FRG PRESIDENT WALTER SCHEEL WILL VISIT MEXICO JUNE 8-15. FOR THIS REASON AND BECAUSE OF OTHER PROJECTED VISITS F VIPS TO MEXICO IT IS "IMPOBABLE," SAID ROEL, THAT LOPEZ PORTILLO WILL VISIT SOUTH AMERICA THIS YEAR AS WAS INDICATED IN LIMA (REFTEL).

4. FINALLY ROEL DENIED REPORTS THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN MEXICO AND COLOMBIA WERE STRAINED BECAUSE OF A TRADE IMBALANCE HIGHLY IN MEXICO'S FAVOR. THE FONSEC STATED THAT MEXICO HAS AGREED TO BUY 300,000 TONS OF COAL FROM COLOMBIA TO OFFSET THE IMBALANCE. END UNCLASSIFIED:

5. (BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL); COMMENT: IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH THE CHARGE ROEL EXPRESSED HIS ANGER AT THE REPORTING OF EXCELSIOR WHOSE HEADLINES STATED THAT MEXICO WOULD MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH "THE TWO SPAINS." ROEL SAID THAT MEXICO HAS NO INTENTION OF TRYING TO MAINTAIN SUCH RELATIONS. THE GOM KNOWS IT MUST GET ON WITH RELATIONS WITH SPAIN AND MUST FIND A WAY TO LET THE REPUBLICAN GOVT DOWN EASILY. THE SAME THOUGHTS WERE EXPRESSED TO CHARGE A WEEK AGO BY MEXICAN SENATOR CONFIDENTIAL

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CABRERA MUNOZ LEDO WHO CLASSIFIED THE SPANISH REPUBLIC AS JUST A SHELL AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE REPUBLICANS WOULD GIVE MEXICO "A WAY OUT." END CONFIDENTIAL. THOMPSON

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